REMARKS

The Office Action of February 3, 2003, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 13, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Kojo, et al.*, (U.S. Patent No. 6,395,135); claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Yoshiyuki* (Japanese Patent No. 2000-96483); and claims 1, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Weldon* (U.S. Patent No. 5,234,549),

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4, 6, 9-12, 14-16, 18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under Section 112 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Submitted herewith is a verified translation of Swedish priority Application No. 9902480-4. In view of the submission of the same, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections over *Kojo, et al.* and *Yoshiyuki* have been obviated.

As set forth above, claim 1 has been amended to eliminate the use of the word "preferably" and to include the limitations of allowable claim 3 (as amended to overcome the rejection under Section 112). Claim 7 has also been amended to overcome the rejection under Section 112. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and claims

7, 8 and newly added claims 21-47 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to overcome the rejection under Section 112 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that independent claim 4 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 has also been rewritten in independent form to overcome the rejection under Section 112 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that independent claim 6 is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for applicant regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 5, 2003

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Attachment to Amendment dated May 5, 2003

1. (Amended) A method for threading a material web through a processing plant, in which the material web is divided by a longitudinal cut into a first narrow part and a second broad part, the first part being passed through the processing plant while the second part is separated, the width of the first part is increased successively so that a growing share of the material web is passed through the processing plant, so that finally the entire width of the material web is passed through the processing plant, and the material web is pulled through the processing plant by a controllable force [(tension)], [characterised in that]

wherein the successive increase of the width of that part which is passed through the processing plant is preceded by an initial interval with an essentially constant width,

wherein the successive increase of the width of that part which is passed through the processing plant occurs through at least two monotonously growing phases with an intermediate interval with an essentially constant width, and

wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web [, preferably in such manner that the magnitude of the force is selected proportional to the width of the first part].

4. (Twice Amended) A method [as claimed in claim 1,] for threading a material web through a processing plant, in which the material web is divided by a longitudinal cut into a first narrow part and a second broad part, the first part being passed through the processing plant while the second part is separated, the width of the first part is

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increased successively so that a growing share of the material web is passed through the processing plant, so that finally the entire width of the material web is passed through the processing plant, and the material web is pulled through the processing plant by a controllable force, the magnitude of the controllable force being automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web,

wherein the material web, in alternating directions, passes through two or more decks, [characterized in that] and

wherein the length of at least one [the] intermediate interval [or intervals] exceeds the length of the material web located in an individual deck, [but that] and the length of the at least one intermediate interval [or intervals preferably] is smaller than twice the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

6. (Twice Amended) A method [according to claim 1,] for threading a material web through a processing plant, in which the material web is divided by a longitudinal cut into a first narrow part and a second broad part, the first part being passed through the processing plant while the second part is separated, the width of the first part is increased successively so that a growing share of the material web is passed through the processing plant, so that finally the entire width of the material web is passed through the processing plant, and the material web is pulled through the processing plant by a controllable force, the magnitude of the controllable force being automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web.

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[characterized in that] wherein the length of each of two or more monotonously growing phases [, preferably the first phases,] is smaller than the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

7. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the width of the first part during the initial interval is 50-200 mm [, preferably about 100 mm].

8. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the width of the first part during one or more monotonously growing phases is increased by a factor of 2 to 5.